

aVOID Tiny House

Project name: aVOID Tiny House

Designer: Leonardo Di Chiara

Short Description: Named aVOID, it is the smallest house on wheels ever built in Italy. A nine-sqm living space equipped with every comfort needed for everyday life, characterized by a strong adhesion to minimalist principles and a more sustainable lifestyle. With its terraced house configuration, aVOID opens the way for the development of "migratory neighbourhoods" for small mobile homes inside big cities.

Long description:

Named aVOID, it is the smallest movable house ever built in Italy. A nine-sqm living space equipped with every comfort needed for everyday life and suitable for the new generations of urban nomads. The aVOID tiny house represents a real lifestyle characterized by strong adhesion to minimalist principles, to the movement "less is more" and to sustainability

The interior of the house, which reminds of a "vacuum", hence the English name "a void", is presented as a single grey room developed longitudinally and without any furnishing. Through the opening of specific wall mounted devices, the space evolves horizontally and transforms itself, fulfilling all the most common functions of a home and revealing the warm colour, with a domestic flavour, of okumé wood. The reclining bed, single or double according to the need, is also used as a sofa in combination with two footstools on wheels. In combination with the folding table, which is set inside the wall, the bed can also serve as a bench to accommodate up to 6 people for dinner. A retractable staircase allows access to the terrace, the most suggestive corner to feel fully citizens of the world.

The internal devices are activated by the Häfele mechanisms, thanks to which, in a few steps, the bedroom becomes a living room, the bathroom is transformed into a comfortable studio and the kitchen into a worktop. By closing all the furnishings the entire surface of the house is once again available for parties with friends, yoga sessions, DIY or simply enjoying the empty space for meditation.

The movable house aVOID is built on the American model "tiny house," and it consists of a wooden frame structure assembled and anchored to a steel trailer with four wheels. The envelope, made with wood fibre insulation and covered with metal sheet, guarantees high thermal performances. Bioclimatic principles are connected with the mobile characteristic of the house, which is designed to be oriented differently depending on the season. The large Schüco French door not only allows the living space to be completely opened outwards, but it also ensures a considerable amount of sunlight when exposed to the south, which has a positive effect on energy self-sufficiency even during the cold season. The tiny house is also equipped with photovoltaic panels with storage battery, a controlled mechanical ventilation system, infrared panel heating and appliances with low energy consumption.

aVoid is designed by Leonardo Di Chiara, a young architect from Pesaro who, in this particular case, also performs the function of client and resident of the small house. For a period of one year, he will personally test life inside the "tiny house" on wheels, with the aim of studying corrective solutions for what he himself defines as an "open prototype". The entire project is the result of the architect's research as a member of the Tinyhouse University in Berlin, a collective that brings together designers, builders and sociologists on the theme of "tiny houses".

The construction of the tiny house aVOID and the test-living activity carried out by Leonardo Di Chiara inside the prototype have as objective the experimentation of the movable typology "tiny house", the industrialization of its construction process and the awareness-raising of decision-making powers towards new housing policies.

aVOID draws its inspiration from the well-known American "tiny house" typology, and it presents itself as a particular response to the housing emergencies of large European cities such as overcrowding and gentrification. With no openings on the long sides, aVOID looks like a real miniature terraced house. This characteristic alludes to its use in aggregation with other mobile units, thus assuming its urban function. The prototype therefore aims to pave the way for the creation and diffusion of a new urban model called "migration district": an agglomeration of houses on wheels that can easily move from one place to another within the existing urban fabric. This characteristic of temporariness makes a migration district particularly suitable for occupying unused spaces in city centres, thus activating processes of urban regeneration.

The tiny house aVOID measures 5.10 metres in length, 2.53 metres in width, 4 metres in height and has a floor area of 9 square metres. According to these dimensions it complies with the measures imposed by the traffic code and can therefore be driven by a car without special authorisation. The inaugural trip was the one from Italy to Berlin in August 2017 to take part in the Bauhaus Campus exhibition, a temporary and experimental village hosted inside the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum of Design. aVOID is the protagonist of a demonstrative stage tour with the aim of raising public awareness on the "tiny house" movement, but more generally to promote a discussion on the sustainability of living in relation to the needs of contemporary society. The 2018 tour will cross the cities of Munich, Ulm, Rome, Milan, Parma, Holzhausen (Silicon Vilstal), Zurich, Stuttgart, Wolfsburg, Potsdam and Berlin.

Leonardo Di Chiara's profile:

Leonardo Di Chiara is a young 27-years old architect and engineer from Italy who graduated with honour from the University of Bologna. He concentrates his research and professional activity in the field of mobile architecture, exploring its possible applications within the existing urban structure. In 2017 he was invited by the architect Van Bo Le-Mentzel to join the Tinyhouse University in Berlin as a member of the Board of Directors. In 2017 he designed and built aVOID tiny house, establishing and coordinating a team of 9 partner institutions and more than 30 technical sponsors among the most influential Italian and German companies. For the social value of his work as a designer, he was selected as winner of the "Premio Berlino 2017", a prestigious award for young Italian architects awarded by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From October 2017 he joined the GRAFT Architects team in Berlin.

aVOID Tiny House and its tour from Berlin to Rome were made possible thanks to the valuable collaboration of Häfele and Schüco, leading German companies in the world of architecture and design in Italy. Häfele, a world specialist in furniture hardware, has made its products and expertise available for the production of transformable interior furniture. On the other hand, Schüco supplied its envelope systems consisting of high-insulation aluminium frames, confirming the company's ability to combine aesthetics and technical performance in this particular application.